

**GO WITH THE FLO**

Hillary Clinton knows a thing or two about vulnerable young people taking part in lewd sexual acts; her husband was almost impeached for one. Zygote has limited experience of lewd sexual acts and he is somewhat stiffer than he used to be. However, he knows more than the Clintons when it comes to computer games. The Senator for New York tossed off a steaming letter of complaint to the US Federal Trade Commission in which she railed against this season's top-selling video game, Grand Theft Auto: San Andreas. In her letter, Hillary Clinton vowed to introduce legislation to stop American youth being encouraged to simulate "uncensored sex scenes with your girlfriend" on their computers.

The furore began when one of her constituents, a Manhattan resident named Florence Cohen, bought a copy of the computer game for her 14-year-old grandson. After the young man had played the game for a while, granny became aware of its content, and she did not like it at all. She proceeded to sue its Scottish manufacturer Rockstar Games for hiding a sequence in the source code that allows fellatio to be simulated by the computerised characters.

Zygote has never met Ms Flo Cohen, but he has read her indictment against Rockstar Games in great detail, and he wishes her all the very worst. He hopes her case is thrown out of court, and that she is given a lengthy prison sentence for encouraging her grandson to simulate other outrageous acts depicted in Grand Theft Auto, including murder, pimping, torture, theft and burying passers-by alive in concrete. Senator Clinton should be directing her energies towards adults who buy teenagers games that glorify violent criminal behaviour. She should not

ZYGOTE

Zygote is all for extracting the urine out of bizarre technological discoveries, but he's seriously miffed by hypocritical grannies who buy kids' games stuffed with violence then moan about a bit of hanky panky

be seeking to legislate against people who condone the entirely legal and often enjoyable practice of fellatio.

Zygote's only complaint on the sexual realism in the game is the absence of a cigar and the lack of any little white stain on the young lady's pixilated dress after the characters do a Bill and Monica.

EASY PEESY

Ki Bang Lee of the Singapore Institute of Bioengineering and Nanotechnology has developed a remarkable credit card-sized battery. It is made from paper impregnated with copper chloride and kept semi-rigid by little strips of conductive foil. To generate electricity, you soak the paper with a small amount of a commonly available liquid, and a steady stream of 1.5V current is produced.

This has all sorts of implications for mobile devices such as PDAs and wireless keyboards, which require low voltage but currently rely on batteries full of toxic components. The liquid needed for Ki Bang Lee's battery is easily biodegradable and gives a whole new meaning to getting pissed off in the workplace: the liquid

is human urine. Altogether now, weee! Speaking of which...

WHAT A WASTE

On 13th August, Zygote was eagerly awaiting the implementation of the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) regulations into UK law. This would have put the responsibility for the safe disposal of Zygote's old computers on the shoulders of the manufacturers, and help create some much-needed trampoline space in the office.

Zygote was looking forward to receiving visitors who had flown in from all sorts of interesting places to collect their redundant kit, and there was a plate of fancy cakes all ready to revive their jet-lagged spirits. Well, it seemed churlish not to offer them something after they had come all the way from China to collect a broken optical cordless mouse.

Unfortunately, the day before the regulations were due to come into effect, the DTI announced it was putting everything on hold until June next year. The reason for the delay is that nobody has the slightest clue how the legislation is supposed to operate. Meanwhile, Zygote is left

with a pile of toxic electronic waste in the hallway. WEEE? Perhaps it is the DTI that is extracting the urine. Speaking of which...

ADDRESSING DOWN

Zygote is delighted to report that the government's strategy to foist an Identity Tax on us via biometric ID cards is in chaos. This is because none of the public agencies involved can agree who owns our postal addresses. After seven years of spiralling costs and ever-increasing backbiting between Royal Mail, Ordnance Survey and local authorities, plans to create a national database of addresses have collapsed because each party refuses to pay the other for data that they believe they already own. And without a national database of addresses, they can't set up a national database of identities.

Now the government is thinking about putting all postal addresses under the control of its own Office for Public Sector Information, and flogging off the data to any organisation they can find that is daft enough to pay for it. Zygote finds this as laughable as it is unworkable. You cannot set yourself up as a trader in information that doesn't belong to you, and the reason it doesn't belong to you is that it is intrinsically free.

If the government wants to argue that our addresses are a bankable commodity then Zygote is more than ready to argue the case that legal ownership belongs to each and every one of us, because we have purchased our addresses as part and parcel of our rent or mortgage. If Ordnance Survey or the City Council or Dodgy Double Glazing Limited wants to put your postal address on a database, then they can pay the owner a suitable fee. And the owner of your address, dear reader, is not the government, but you. **CS**

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BACKING UP DATA



It is absolutely vital that all computer users include rigorous back-ups as part of their maintenance schedule



Backing up is a simple procedure, and it can save a lot of heartache if the unexpected happens



Regular daily back-ups will keep everything accessible in your system, if you ever need to retrieve it.